

- Emergency procedures;
- Surface and underwater conditions and hazards;
- Hazardous materials; and
- Enclosed or physically confined spaces.

Prior to initiating a dive operation, the following conditions should be assessed, at a minimum, for potential or apparent hazards:

- Water speed;
- Water clarity/visibility; and
- Visible hazards.
- Potential hazards—In environments where there is a high probability of encountering a hazard not initially present (i.e., floating debris or entanglement hazards), someone should be assigned to scan the upstream area for potential hazards flowing into the worksite.
- Known hazards—In locations where previous dives have been made and the hazards are known or suspected.

Water quality should be assessed and characterized in one of four categories specified in Table 1.

Table 1—Water Contamination Categories

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	CONTAMINANTS	PROTECTION LEVEL
1	Highest contamination, grossly contaminated with concentrated chemical or biological contamination	Obvious fuel slicks, aircraft recovery with copious jet fuel present, sewage operations, hog lagoons	A
2	Moderate contamination with concentrated chemical or biological contamination	Above what is normally expected and in human remains recovery and fuel slicks caused from motor vehicle recoveries	A or B*
3	Baseline contamination (water quality expected is normal and has a demonstrated history of causing no adverse effects on divers)	The water quality that is normally expected and has a demonstrated history of causing no acute effects on divers	A or B
4	No contamination	Drinking water reservoirs, swimming pools or other bodies of water routinely analyzed for quality	A or B

*Primary suspect contaminant is microbiological

Personal protective equipment

Based on the hazard assessment, the appropriate protective diving ensemble should be selected.

- Protective ensembles should be chosen to provide the minimum level of protection necessary to protect against expected water contaminants.
 - Level A—diving helmet, encapsulating dry suit and mating neck-dam, dry gloves attached to integral cuff rings on dry suit sleeves.
 - Level B—full-face mask, encapsulating dry suit with hood, dry gloves attached over cuff rings.

In an incident where water quality cannot be readily assessed and there are no records to show the pathological or contaminant history of the site, the personal protective equipment (PPE) dress standard for the diver should be modified to that of a Level B or higher to avoid potential exposure.